



September 13-14, 2010

## Recent growth in hospital observation care

**ISSUE:** Medicare outpatient observation care grew rapidly across the nation from 2006 to 2008.

**KEY POINTS:** Staff will present information on the extent of observation care growth, its potential causes, and the consequences for Medicare beneficiaries.

**ACTION:** Commissioners should provide comments on approaches to address the beneficiary and programmatic consequences of observation care growth.

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